

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 2, has been amended as follows:

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C1 In the technique described in reference 1, however, for example, applicant has found that to keep the power of signal light output from the optical amplifier at a predetermined target value when the loss in the input-side transmission line of the optical amplifier varies due to some reason, and the power of signal light input to the optical amplifier varies, the gain of optical amplification of signal light in the optical amplifier must be changed. If the gain is changed, the wavelength dependence of gain varies. This damages the gain flatness of the optical amplifier, and the plurality of signal light components output from the optical amplifier have different powers or so-called deviation.

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The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 15, has been amended as follows:

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C2 In the technique described in reference 2, applicant has found that to keep the power of signal light input to the output-side optical amplification section at a predetermined target value by the optical attenuator when the signal light input to the input-side optical amplification section has sufficiently high power, the power must be largely attenuated by the optical attenuator. As a result, the pumping efficiency lowers to degrade the noise factor.

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